NOVEL DENIES KNOWING PLOT

Times-Picayune

Given Lie Detector Test by Investigator

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A private investigator who administered a lie detector test over the weekend to Gordon Novel told The Times-Picayune Sunday that Novel denied any knowledge of a presidential assassination plot being hatched in New Orleans.

Lloyd B. Furr, reached at his McLean, Va., home Sunday, also quoted Novel as saying that District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe into an alleged plot was a "fraud."

Furr, who said he was retained by The Hearst Headline Service and the National Broadcasting Company to conduct a polygraph interview of Novel, refused to divulge results of the test made Saturday in his office.

ABSENT WITNESS

Novel, 29, is the absent witness in Garrison's probe of the John F. Kennedy assassination. New Orleans officials are seeking Novel as a material witness, but are unable to locate him.

Furr said Novel was brought to his office by representatives of Hearst and NBC, who remained on the scene while the lie detector test was administered. Furr said the test took between four and five hours.

Although he said Novel "answered the questions satisfactorily," Furr stressed he was not at liberty to disclose test findings.

He did disclose, however, some of the questions he asked Novel during the test. Among them were: Did District Attorney Garrison agree to a bizarre plan to obtain a confession from David W. Ferrie?; Did Garrison threaten you (Novel) in any way to obtain your cooperation?; Did you know Clay Shaw in connection with any presi-

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NOVEL DENIES

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dential assassination conspiracy?

CENTRAL FIGURES

Ferrie and Shaw are the central figures in Garrison's case. Shaw, former director of the International Trade Mart, has been indicted on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy in 1963. Ferrie, a pilot, was labeled a co-conspirator by Garrison but died of natural causes in New Orleans Feb. 22 before any formal charges were made.

Furr said he did not know Novel's present whereabouts, explaining that no details of where he was found were given to him.

The Hearst Service reported Saturday that it had found Novel "in his hideaway" and that NBC had paid transporation costs to bring Novel to McLean, Va. for the test. Results of the interview are to be shared by the two news services.

Novel was known to be in Chicago late last week and police there were asked by New Orleans authorities to locate him.